

**PETITION FOR CONTEMPT
(DENIAL OF VISITATION)
INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING DOM REL 3**

If you have a court order granting you visitation and the person with custody has denied you visitation, you may ask the court to enforce its order so that you can see the child(ren), filing either through an attorney or by yourself. DOM REL forms were developed to assist persons deciding to proceed alone, but you are urged to consider carefully the importance of getting help.

There are 5 steps you must follow in order to proceed with the case yourself:

> STEP 1 — Completion of Form DOM REL 3.

Use this form **only** if there already is a court order that allows you visitation. To complete this form, **you will need a copy of that order**. If you do not have a copy, ask the Clerk of Court how to get one.

Court: Fill in the name of the County (or Baltimore City) where you intend to file your case. See ***General Instructions***.

Case No., Plaintiff and Defendant: Fill in the case number, Plaintiff's name and Defendant's name ***exactly*** as they appear on the order. Fill in the ***current*** address and telephone number for both.

Print your name in the space provided above item 1.

Item 1: Looking at the order, fill in the date, the city or county where the order was granted, and the case number.

Item 2: For the court to find the other person in contempt, he/she must have **already** denied you visitation. Explain in detail the dates and events surrounding the denial of your visitation.

Item 3: Fill in the last date that you were allowed to visit with the child(ren).

Item 4: Fill in the name of the person with custody.

Item 5: Circle whether you do or do not want the court to order jail time to enforce its order.

FOR THESE REASONS: Fill in the name of the person with custody. Then state what you would like the court to do in addition to what is listed, if anything, but **remember that the court**

need not give you what you asked for.

Date and sign form DOM REL 3.

> STEP 2 — Completion of Top of a Show Cause Order.

Fill in **ONLY** the top of a Show Cause Order Form (DOM REL 53) and attach it to the petition (DOM REL 3). If the Court signs the Show Cause order, a copy will be mailed to you.

> STEP 3 — Filing Forms and Paying Filing Fee.

Take your completed forms to the Clerk of Court. Payment of a filing fee generally is required at this time. See **General Instructions**.

> STEP 4 — Service.

You will need to serve the other side with the following papers which you have filed or which have been provided by the Court. See **General Instructions**.

1. Petition for Contempt
2. Order to Show Cause completed and signed by a judge (This will be mailed to you if it is signed.)
3. Writ of Summons (if required by the Court)

> STEP 5 — Hearing.

If the court signs the show cause order, a copy of it will be mailed back to you. The court will have filled in the court date. Make sure you attend that day. See page 5 of **General Instructions - What Happens in Court?**